

7 January 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Corps Specifications Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

1. The Corps Specifications Steering Committee (CSSC) met on 30 November - 1 December 1999 in Arlington, Texas.

2. Announcements. Mike Dahlquist, CEMVP-PE-D, was present in proxy for Al Geisen; Victor Yan, CDSPD-ET, was present for Donald Berger; Timothy Pope was absent. Freddie Rush introduced Scott Stewart, CEMVK, who has replaced Tom Shaw as Civil Works Notice Program manager and CSSC committee member. [Enclosure 1](#) is the list of attendees.

3. Mr. Rush reviewed the proposed agenda ([Enclosure 2](#)).

4. HQUSACE Comments and Update.

a. Civil Works. Charlie Baldi reported that Carl Ensen has retired and Charlie Hess is currently wearing two hats. Downsizing at Headquarters is continuing with positions being vacated not being filled. He also reported that the money for the NASA SPECSINTACT contract and the steering committee for FY 2000 would be coming from the District site licenses.

b. Military Programs. Rick Dahnke reported that Military Programs is in a similar status but they still have a chief. The site license money is expected to be available in January after RM finishes working on it.

1) Funding. Rick also reported that funding for the guide specification program is becoming a problem. It is currently funded from the MCA Planning and Design funds. An effort was made to sell the guide specifications to the National Institute for Building Sciences (NIBS), which would then sell the package to AE's, to help defray the costs of maintenance, but the process was not approved on legal grounds. Funds have been approved for the next fiscal year. Other sources of funding, including site licenses, are being investigated.

2) Design-Build. Design-build appears to be the wave of the future. Navy, USACE, CSI and DBIA are looking at partnering arrangements to advance the concept. USACE is currently looking into standard technical requirements for Design-Build Requests for Proposal (RFP's). A meeting with CSI has been scheduled for 3 December 1999 to discuss the CSI "Perspective" software. The "Perspective" software doesn't have Federal requirements, but they may be built in. Navy has used it on a few projects. Rick

reported that Mr. McCarty would like to have all requirements, including Design-Build in one database by including the Design-Build requirements as tailoring options in SPECSINTACT. The intent is to have a "set of requirements" to be used in RFP's so that specifications developed by the contractor will include Federal requirements such as energy efficiency, use of recycled products, and seismic design requirements. Civil Works hasn't had much involvement in Design-Build to date. Anil Nisargand reported that Seattle District has used Design-Build and has furnished the contractors a list of CEGS to be used. Larry Seals suggested that the use of Design-Build and the need to adapt commercial processes to incorporate our unique requirements may cause us to rethink our technical criteria and how it differs from commercial criteria and determine if the differences are necessary.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting. The minutes of the June 28-29, 1999 meeting were reviewed. Some minor corrections were suggested. Joe Miller moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, Anil Nisargand seconded, and the committee approved. Future minutes will be posted on the web page as draft until approved by the committee.

6. Registry of Consultants. John Kerkowski reported that Gen. Ballard prefers the Registry of Skills (ROS) to the Registry of Consultants (ROC), consequently the ROS is moving on. There is currently a database that was set up for both systems. The differences between the two systems were discussed. The ROS is intended to include all USACE employees and would provide general classification information. The ROC was intended to be a voluntary registry of technical specialists and included provisions for validation of expertise by a responsible person. John Kerkowski suggested adding specifications information into the existing ROC database to be used for Specification Engineer information only. Rick Dahnke will look into this possibility. Some divisions are reportedly proceeding with some type of expert registry on their own. Larry Seals encouraged all CSSC members to put their resumes on the CSSC web page. There are currently only 2 résumés and 3 biographical sketches in place. Freddie Rush requested that all members have their biographical sketch in to Jim Quinn by 10 December 1999 to be put on the web page.

7. Automated Review Management System (ARMS). Joe Miller questioned the current status of the ARMS program. Both ARMS and Dr. Checks are officially sanctioned, but have different features. Dr. Checks has been developed as a Lessons Learned system. John Kerkowski reported that the new version of ARMS is more user friendly than previous versions and includes a lessons learned module. Rick Dahnke said that an effort is being made to incorporate the DA facility standards into Dr. Checks. Some divisions have required their districts to use Dr. Checks for reviews. John Kerkowski questioned if we are now going off in

two directions.

8. Specifications Conference

a. The specifications conference is scheduled for 29 February - 1 March 2000 at the Holiday Inn Market Square in San Antonio, Texas. Dave Barber, SWD, host division, is working on the arrangements. Sixty rooms have been reserved, along with two conference rooms. A smaller room will also be reserved for 2 March for a half-day meeting of the CSSC. The number of rooms was based on one attendee per District and Division, the CSSC Notice Program coordinators and HQ representatives, and some additional presenters. The Division representatives will query their districts to determine a total number of attendees to expect. Dave Barber will check to see if additional rooms can be made available if needed. Additional information on San Antonio can be found on the Internet at <http://www.sanantoniocvb.com>.

b. The CSSC spent a considerable amount of time in determining topics of discussion, presenters, and time to be allowed for the various presentations. The topics were then arranged in a logical order to develop a tentative agenda. The first day of the conference will be devoted the presentation of background information on specifications. The second day will include information on processes and panel discussions. The tentative agenda is enclosed as [Enclosure 3](#). Freddie Rush will send letters to the proposed non-Corps presenters, contact suggested presenters who were not at the meeting, and prepare memos to Districts about the conference. Navy and NASA representatives will also be invited to attend.

c. Presentations must be prepared in PowerPoint 97, and must be furnished on CD or diskette for use with a PC projector.

Presentations must be submitted electronically to Jim Quinn, Huntsville Center by 15 February so that they will be available to be put on the CSSC web site when the conference is over. Presentations that have photographs or other large file size graphics should be submitted in Portable Document Format. Hard copies of the presentations will not be made available. Articles related to specifications, which are developed by districts but not presented at the conference, could also be posted on the web site.

d. Dave Barber will check on availability of audio-visual equipment. The recommended equipment includes PC projector, microphone/lectern, wireless microphone, and phone line for Internet access. It was also recommended that CSSC members bring laptop computers as backup.

e. The registration fee was discussed and set at \$50 per registrant to cover costs of the conference room, audio-visual equipment, and incidental items. John Kerkowski said that North

Atlantic Division would collect the registration fees and handle the money. The memorandum that Freddie will send out will include registration instructions. John will also check on prices for pads, etc. for attendees. Registrations must be made by 7 February 2000. CSSC members will handle registration of attendees at the conference. Due to the fact that the conference will take two full days, 28 February and 2 March should be considered as travel days for those attending.

f. It was decided that CSSC would pay \$1,500 for CSSC District Representatives for travel and registration fee for the conference and labor for the CSSC meeting only. All other costs would be the responsibility of the district.

9. SICCB/Amendments/SMRL

a. SICCB Meeting. Charlie Baldi, Rick Dahnke, Jim Quinn and Steve Frietas will attend the next SICCB meeting on 7 and 8 December. The recommendation to modify SPECSINTACT to handle amendments will be addressed at this meeting since the 32-bit version of SPECSINTACT will be out next quarter. Freddie reported that \$10,000 is available for IDI (the SPECSINTACT contractor) to work on it.

b. Standard Master Reference List (SMRL). Rick Dahnke said that there is an attempt being made to have the SMRL funded by the SICCB. Navy and NASA do not currently use it because they do their own list. If the SMRL becomes a joint document, it should be funded by all and maintained by IDI. Jim Quinn said that the Notice Program currently has a contract with IHS to maintain the dates, titles and addresses up-to-date, but the contract expires in December 1999. IHS also coordinates the reference publications that do not have a reference number. Eventually, it may be possible to link the CEGS to the SMRL and tie to the publications on the web.

c. Virtual Library. Rick Dahnke reported that HQUSACE IM says the virtual library may be running this fiscal year. IHS will probably be the contractor. When the IHS contract is in place, IHS will reimburse those districts that have local contracts when the new contract takes effect. The Virtual Library will be funded by HQUSACE for now, but the users may fund it in the future. After reviewing data submitted by field users, it may be determined that only engineering and design requirements will be included in the system.

10. Notice Program

Vicksburg District will continue to manage the Civil Works Notice Program, which will remain separate from the Military Programs Notice Program.

a. EPA Recycling Requirements. Jim Quinn reported that the EPA recycling requirements modifications to guide specifications were given a higher priority than the changes required to conform to the new submittal designations and are nearly complete.

b. Submittal Designation Changes. Jim Quinn reported that the changes necessary for guide specifications to comply with the new SPECSINTACT designations have not been started yet because of software compatibility issues. The submittals must be compatible with the RMS system used by Construction, and Jim said that it would probably take a quarter to complete. The SPECSINTACT contractor was to submit an electronic submittal register in August 1999 to be given to the RMS contractor to check for compatibility, but has not done so yet. The software issue is expected to come up at the SICCB meeting. It was decided that Huntsville would proceed with the submittal changes in January to March 2000 with the intent of putting the revised guide specifications on TECHINFO as soon as completed and on the following quarter CCB CD. Because of the incompatibility between the two designation systems, all of the guide specifications must be put on the system at once.

11. CSSC Web Page

Freddie Rush reminded all members to submit their biographical sketches in to Jim Quinn by 10 December. He reported that the Status of Recommendations report was being kept up to date. Freddie suggested adding the specifications conference information to the web page either under the CSSC or as a separate page, along with an email link for panel discussion topics. The Committee decided to add the information the CSSC web page and include the draft agenda.

12. Combining CEGS

At the last meeting, 13 pairs of CW/MP specifications were considered for combining. Rick Dahnke and Charlie Baldi were to discuss combining them with the appropriate HQ proponents. This will also be involved in the criteria scrub that Rick discussed at the last meeting. HND and MVK submitted the list in July 1999 as CSSC Recommendation 15. The environmental protection guide specification is in the program and is currently being worked on.

Joe Miller reported that feedback from the field has been received, and Ed Bave is addressing the concerns. CEGS 14210 (Elevators, Electric) will absorb CEGS 14211 (Elevators, Electric for Civil Works) when it is updated. After approval is obtained to combine the remaining pairs of guide specifications, they will be prioritized for action. Sacramento District Geotech expressed an interest in combining the concrete guide specifications. Larry Seals expressed a concern about this being strictly geotechnical effort since the concrete guide specifications are strongly structural also. Jim Quinn reported that NASA is

working on standardizing the section numbers between agencies. He expressed concern that there may be differences in content between the agencies and that this could be a problem.

13. Joint ER on Plans and Specifications

Discussion was held at the last meeting on making a joint ER for Civil Works and Military Programs plans and specifications instead of updating ER 1110-2-1200, "Plans and Specifications for Civil Works Projects". ER 1110-1-8155, "Specifications" adequately covers the specifications. Much of the material in ER 1110-2-1200 on plans no longer applies, however, ER 1110-2-1200 includes price schedules and other items not addressed by ER 1110-1-8155. The consensus of comments that Freddie Rush had received from CSSC members was to combine CW and MP requirements.

The recently issued policy on as-builts could be included in the new regulation. It was suggested that ER 1110-2-1200 be rescinded and be superseded by a new ER combining ER 1110-345-700, "Drawing Analysis, Drawings and Specifications" and ER 1110-2-1150, "Engineering and Design for Civil Works Projects", adding the as-built policy, and referencing ER 1110-2-8155. Mike Dahlquist suggested that committee members review ER 1110-345-700 and ER 1110-2-1200 and vote at the next meeting. ER 1110-1-8155 and ER 1110-2-1150 should also be reviewed for reference, as well as policy memos on as-builts and Electronic Bid Sets. Joe Miller also reported that the new regulation on Quality would be out for field comment later this fiscal year.

14. Navy/Corps of Engineers Partnering

Freddie Rush will invite a Navy representative to the specifications conference. Rick Dahnke reported that the Navy had transferred the specifications function, but not personnel, to LANTDIV, and may transfer some personnel to Norfolk. Freddie suggested that the Navy be offered an open invitation to future CSSC meetings. Rick Dahnke said the current emphasis is on triagency cooperation on criteria documents, not specifications.

15. Joint CSSC/CSI Meeting

The next CSI conference will be held in Atlanta in June 2000. The CSSC may try to have a meeting at the same time to permit those who are interested to attend the CSI conference and possibly have a joint meeting with CSI. Because of the attendance at the CSI conferences, it will be necessary to make plans soon. Jim Quinn suggested focusing on a particular group of CSI for a joint meeting. Anil Nisargand suggested having the meeting before the conference (20-21 June). Exhibits are open 22-24 June, the conference is 22-25 June. Registration fee is approximately \$300. Tim Pope will be asked to check on arrangements.

16. Status of Recommendations

a. Recommendation 13 - Virtual Library. This was discussed previously. (See paragraph 9c.)

b. Recommendation 14 - Concurrent Criteria/Guide Specification updates. Military Programs currently does some guide specification update concurrently with criteria updates. Civil Works uses different people for criteria updates and guide specification updates. Charlie Baldi suggested the updating organization also update the specification since they probably have the same HQ proponent. The money for criteria and specification update is separate and would need to be coordinated. Larry Seals suggested that those updating criteria may not need to update the specifications but should identify the requirements to be added. The Notice Program could handle this. Freddie said that proponents should be reminded that the guide specifications also need to be updated when criteria is updated. Larry said the scopes of work for criteria should include identifying changes to CEGS, with the detail of identification determined by the proponent. Charlie Baldi will draft a memo for committee review.

c. Recommendation - Making SPECSINTACT SGML Compliant. We were waiting for the 32-bit version of SPECSINTACT, but nothing has been heard about it lately. Jim Quinn said that WordSpec being functional might have taken some of the heat off.

Mike Dahlquist said that WordSpec hadn't worked well in NT systems, but no one knew if it worked properly now. Joe Miller suggested that the SPECSINTACT contractor should work on compatibility since the Corps is migrating to NT networks. Jim Quinn said that the note on CCB implies that it is compatible, but he will check on it at the SICCB meeting. If it is compatible, the fact should be made known to users. If SPECSINTACT were fully SGML compliant, WordSpec would not be needed.

17. New Issues

a. Technical News Groups. Joe Miller reported that several technical news groups had been set up for NWD by the Center of Expertise in Portland. There are news groups for electrical, mechanical, structural, geotechnical, specifications, hydropower and civil/value engineering. He will send information on access to the MSC representatives for dissemination. The news groups are bulletin boards that can be tracked by subject. Currently posts to the bulletin boards are kept for two months, however, those on the most active bulletin boards may be kept on up to six months. Other news groups are also listed. The bulletin boards can only be accessed from usace.army.mil servers.

b. Engineering and Construction Newsletter. Charlie Baldi

reported that only one article had been received for the December issue that was to feature specifications. Articles can still be submitted for future issues.

18. Status of CEGS updates (Civil Works)

- a. Levees - published on CD
- b. Stone Protection - published on CD
- c. Mechanically Stabilized Walls - published on CD
- d. Fracture Critical Members - still awaiting criteria update. Freddie Rush will check with WES on status of criteria update.
- e. Concrete Rehabilitation - scope has been worked on with WES. WES input on review involvement and costs has been received. Revised estimate for completion is approximately \$75,000.
- f. Drainage Structures Through Levees - will convert an Omaha District spec to SPECSINTACT and put out. It will be evaluated after one year for needed revisions.
- g. Mechanically Stabilized Walls Guidance Document - draft of guidance was finalized at end of FY99 and sent for review, waiting on response from one reviewer.
- h. Gabion Study - The last inspection was October 1999. A report is being prepared. There have been no significant changes in performance from the previous inspection. There has been a lot of debris damage to the gabions; however, it has not affected the performance of either type. The next inspection is scheduled for April 2000, after which another report will be prepared. A draft report on the study is due in June 2000, with the final report by the end of summer. The welded wire is more expensive material, but easier to handle. A question was raised on the gabion specification itself, suggesting that the welded wire gabion should be a heavier gage. Reportedly, for 600-psi shear strength, 12 gage is acceptable for twisted wire, but 10 gage is required for welded wire. At 12 gage, the installed costs are similar; if 10 gage is required for welded wire, the added material cost outweighs the installation savings. The intent of the study was to study the performance of similar materials (welded vs. twisted wire) for a particular project life and identical conditions, not to determine requirements for gabions.
- i. Cathodic Protection - CERL was given \$20,000 to update the guide specification for Cathodic Protection for Civil Works projects. It should be finished by the end of January 2000. The specification covers impressed current systems for lock gates,

and is sufficiently different from other cathodic protection (used in Military Programs) to remain a separate specification.

19. New and Updated CEGS

a. Metallizing (CEGS 09971) - CERL has asked for \$35,000 to update the guide specification for Metallizing Hydraulic Structures.

b. CEGS 02630, Storm-Drainage Systems - Mike Dahlquist reported that a pipe manufacturer said that few manufacturers currently coat corrugated metal pipe with asphalt by dipping and recommended evaluating the coating process specified to be sure it is state of the art. Larry Seals suggested submitting this as an ENG 3078 request for change. It was pointed out that the manufacture could also submit the ENG 3078 electronically through TECINFO.

c. Bank Stabilization/Shoreline Protection - Mike Dahlquist reported that ASTM is developing a standard for articulated concrete block revetments. It is being developed by ASTM committee D1825.04 and is for manufacture, design and installation of the revetment. He will present a proposal at the next meeting to prepare a guide specification based on the ASTM. Larry Seals suggested querying districts to see if there is interest in a new CEGS for this.

d. Roller Compacted Concrete - Don Berger suggested that CEGS 03701, "Roller Compacted Concrete for Mass Concrete Constructions" needs to be updated to include recent technology on materials, testing etc. Freddie will forward the suggestion to MK Lee. Larry Seals said that Jim McDonald at WES had proposed research on roller compacted concrete, including state of the art technology, but it hasn't been funded.

e. CEGS 03300, "Cast-In-Place Structural Concrete" - Anil Nisargand said he has had complaints on the complexity of CEGS 03300 and the difficulty of editing it for use for foundations and small concrete projects. It was suggested the CEGS 03307, "Concrete for Minor Structures" be used instead.

20. Funds Committed

Freddie Rush reviewed the status of funds currently committed by the committee.

a. \$7,500 for district members for conference - to cover travel, ½ day labor for CSSC meeting and conference registration.

b. \$20,000 for Jim Quinn for Notice Program.

c. \$35,000 for CERL for updating metallizing guide spec.

d. \$75,000 for Pittsburgh District for Concrete

Rehabilitation guide specification.

e. to be determined for Vicksburg District for Notice Program and conversion of guide specifications to SISGML.

Future meeting will be funded by site licenses. \$226,000 is anticipated, with \$200,000 going to NASA for maintenance of SPECSINTACT and the remainder going to the CSSC.

21. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be in Atlanta in June 2000 in conjunction with the CSI conference, if arrangements can be made.

Thomas E. Andre, P.E.
Secretary, CSSC

3 Encls

CORPS SPECIFICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Attendance
Arlington, Texas
29 November - 1 December 1999

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Rick Dahnke	CEMP-ET	(202) 761-1203
Charlie Baldi	CECW-EP	(202) 761-8894
Jim Quinn	CEHNC-ED-ES-G	(205) 895-1821
Larry Seals	CELRD-ET-EW	(513) 684-3034
Freddie S. Rush	CEMVD-ET-ET	(601) 634-5936
Mike Dahlquist	CEMVP-PE-D	(612) 290-5571
Thomas Andre	CELRP-ED-DT	(412) 395-7306
Anil L. Nisargand	CENWS-ED-DB-SP	(206) 764-3828
Joseph Miller	CENWD-MR-ET-E	(402) 697-2649
Wayne M. Hashiro	CEPOD-ET-T	(808) 438-6950
Victor Yan	CESPD-ET	(415) 977-8103
Dave Barber	CESWD-ETEC-T	(214) 767-2385
John Kerkowski	CENAD-ET-E	(718) 481-8737
Scott Stewart	CEMVK-ED-D	(601) 631-5567

AGENDA

CORPS SPECIFICATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 1999

0800 - 0805	Announcements	Rush
0805 - 0810	Review Agenda	Rush
0810 - 0820	CW Notice Program Manager	Rush
0820 - 0835	HQUSACE Update	Baldi/Dahnke
0835 - 0845	Review and Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting	CSSC
0845 - 0930	Specifications Conference	CSSC
0930 - 0945	Break	
0945 - 1145	Specifications Conference	CSSC
1145 - 1245	Lunch	
1245 - 1315	SICCCB/Amendments/SMRL	CSSC
1315 - 1345	Notice Program	CSSC
1345 - 1410	EPA/Submittal Requirements	CSSC
1410 - 1430	Virtual Library	CSSC
1430 - 1445	Break	
1445 - 1505	CSSC Web Page	CSSC
1505 - 1520	Combining CEGS	CSSC
1520 - 1545	ROC/Specs Engineer	CSSC
1545 - 1615	Joint ER on Plans & Specs	CSSC
1615 - 1630	Navy/NASA/Corps Partnering	CSSC
1630 - 1635	CSI/CSSC Meeting - June 2000	CSSC
1635 - 1645	FY 2000 Funding	Baldi/Dahnke
1645 - 1700	Status of Recommendations	CSSC

WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 1999

0800 - 0900	New Issues	CSSC
0900 - 0945	Status of CEGS (CW)	
	Levee GS	Baldi
	Stone Protection GS	Rush
	Rock & Soil Anchors GS	Andre
	Fracture Critical Members	Rush
	Concrete Restoration GS	Andre
	Drainage Structures GS	Rush
	Mechanically Stabilized Walls	Dahlquist
	Gabion Study	Kerkowski
	Cathodic Protection	Rush
0945 - 1000	Break	
1000 - 1100	New/Update CEGS	CSSC
1100 - 1130	Open Discussion	CSSC
1130 - 1200	Summary and Recap	CSSC
1200	Adjourn	

SPECIFICATIONS CONFERENCE 2000

29 February - 1 March 2000

San Antonio, Texas

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, 29 February 2000

0800 - 0815	Opening Remarks	Charles Baldi, HQ
0815 - 0845	HQUSACE Perspective	Charles Baldi, HQ
0845 - 0930	Corps Specifications Steering Committee	Freddie Rush, MVD
0930 - 1000	CEGS Notice Programs	Jim Quinn, HNC Scott Stewart, MVK
1000 - 1030	Break	
1030 - 1100	TECHINFO	Jim Quinn, HNC
1100 - 1140	Role of Specifications Engineer	Spec Consultants
1140 - 1200	SAME-CSI Competition/ CSI Certification	Spec Consultants
1200 - 1300	Lunch	
1300 - 1500	SPECSINTACT	InDyne, Inc. (IDI)
1500 - 1530	Break	
1530 - 1600	Electronic Bid Sets	Tri-Service, WES
1600 - 1630	Amendments	Steve Freitas, SPK
1630 - 1700	Submittals	Anil Nisargand, NPS

Wednesday, 1 March 2000

0800 - 0830	Legal Aspects/FAR	Freddie Rush, MVD
0830 - 0900	Local Requirements	To Be Announced
0900 - 0930	Documents/Division 01	Don Carmen, SAW
0930 - 1000	Break	
1000 - 1200	Panel Discussion	IDI/CSSC/Navy/NASA
1200 - 1300	Lunch	
1300 - 1400	Specifications Process	MVP/Navy/NASA
1400 - 1430	Design Build	HQUSACE
1430 - 1500	Break	
1500 - 1530	Braddock Dam Project	Pittsburgh District
1530 - 1600	Future/Closing Remarks	Charles Baldi, HQ